

Abstract of the Disclosure

A postero-lateral intervertebral disc prosthesis includes two inserts and an intermediate element. First insert has a fixed planar section to engage a lower vertebral plateau. The element has a lower planar surface for support on the first insert with a limited capacity for translational displacement and an upper generally hemispherical surface. Second insert has a fixed planar section to engage an upper vertebral plateau and, opposite thereto, a concave surface cooperating with the hemispherical surface facilitating multi-directional articulation. The inserts are disc shaped with a diameter of less than about 30 mm and, when juxtaposed with the intermediate element, define a total height of about 11 to 15 mm to permit introduction by an initially postero-lateral route.